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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/474,491

FILING DATE: May 30, 2003

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US04/12877

REC'D 11 JUN 2004

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M. TARVER
Certifying Officer

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04772 U.S. PTO
05/30/03

6-2-03474491-052003 PROV

PTO/SB/16 (05-03)

Approved for use through 4/30/2003. OMB 0651-0032
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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. EV078878105US

INVENTOR(S)					
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Steven M. David James		Kowalski Krysiak		Royal Oak, Michigan Pleasant Ridge, Michigan	
Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)					
GARMENT HOOK ASSEMBLY					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number		10291		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Customer Number		Customer Number Bar Code	
OR					
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages		6	<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number		
<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets		1	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76					
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: 18-0013					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$) 160.00					
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are:					

[Page 1 of 1]

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

Sonu Nanda

Date May 30, 2003

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Docket Number:

65961-0096

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Provisional Patent Application Transmittal
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Dated: May 30, 2003

Signature:

Julie A. Barber
(Julie A. Barber)

60474491-053003

PTO/SB/17 (05-03)

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**FEE TRANSMITTAL
for FY 2003**

Effective 01/01/2003, Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** (\$) **160.00****Complete if Known**

Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
First Named Inventor	Steven M. Kowalski
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Art Unit	N/A
Attorney Docket No.	65961-0096

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)
☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None
☒ Deposit Account

Deposit Account Number

18-0013

Deposit Account Name

Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC

The Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments☒ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1001	750	2001	375	Utility filing fee	
1002	330	2002	165	Design filing fee	
1003	520	2003	260	Plant filing fee	
1004	750	2004	375	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	160.00

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) **160.00****2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE**

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Independent Claims	** =	x	=
Multiple Dependent	** =	x	=

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	84	2201	42	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	280	2203	140	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	84	2204	42	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) **0.00**

** or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	410	2252	205	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	930	2253	465	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,450	2254	725	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	1,970	2255	985	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	320	2401	160	Notice of Appeal	
1402	320	2402	160	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	280	2403	140	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,300	2453	650	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,300	2501	650	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	470	2502	235	Design issue fee	
1503	630	2503	315	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1808	180	1808	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (Times number of properties)	
1809	750	2809	375	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810	750	2810	375	For each additional invention to be examined (37CFR 1.129(b))	
1801	750	2801	375	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) **0.00****SUBMITTED BY**Name (Print/Type) **Sonu Nanda**

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May 30, 2003

Fee Transmittal

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Dated: May 30, 2003

Signature:

Julie A. Barber

(Julie A. Barber)

Application No. (if known):

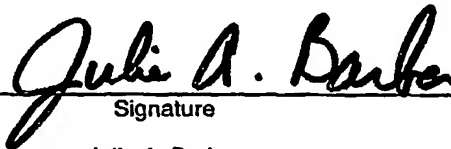
Attorney Docket No.: 65961-0096

Certificate of Express Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.10

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Date



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Julie A. Barber

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Application Data Sheet

Application Data Sheet**Application Information**

Application Type::	Provisional
Subject Matter::	Utility
Suggested Group Art Unit::	N/A
CD-ROM or CD-R?::	None
Sequence submission?::	None
Computer Readable Form (CRF)?::	No
Title::	GARMENT HOOK ASSEMBLY
Attorney Docket Number::	65961-0096
Request for Early Publication?::	No
Request for Non-Publication?::	No
Total Drawing Sheets::	1
Small Entity?::	No
Petition included?::	No
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?::	No

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Representative Information

Representative Customer Number:: 10291

Attorney Docket No.: 65961-0096
702880PRO

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Express Mail No.: EV078878105US

GARMENT HOOK ASSEMBLY

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to an interior accessory for a vehicle and in particular to a garment hook on the rear door or liftgate of a vehicle.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0002] The present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0003] Figure 1 is a perspective view of the garment hook assembly in its lowered and raised position.

[0004] Figure 2 is a perspective view of the garment hook assembly in its lowered position within a sports utility vehicle.

[0005] Figure 3 is a side view of the garment hook assembly assembly in its lowered position within a sports utility vehicle.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

[0006] Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a garment hook assembly 10 is shown according to one embodiment of the present invention. The garment hook assembly 10 is positioned on a liftgate assembly 20 within a vehicle 12. The liftgate assembly 20 includes an inner panel 14 and an outer panel 16. The inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20 has a recess 18 for housing the garment hook assembly 10.

[0007] As best seen in Figure 1, the garment hook assembly 10 comprises a hook portion 24 and a base portion 26. The hook portion 24 and the base portion 26 are located on opposite ends of the garment hook assembly 10. In the illustrated embodiment of the present invention, the hook portion 24 can be made from a metal material and the base portion 26 can be made from a plastic material. However, it can be appreciated that the garment hook assembly 10 can also be made of all metal or all plastic, depending on the desired objectives. For instance, an all plastic garment hook

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assembly 10 has the advantages of being a lighter weight than an all metal garment hook assembly 10. In addition, an all plastic garment hook assembly 10 may be manufactured simultaneously with the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20 in an injection molding process, resulting in lower manufacturing and assembly costs. On the other hand, an all metal garment hook assembly 10 has the advantage of being able to support a greater weight than an all plastic hook.

[0008] In one embodiment of the present invention, the base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 is secured to the sheet metal of the vehicle (not shown). The base portion 26 may pass through the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20 and attach directly to the sheet metal of the vehicle 12 by any conventional method. In one example of a conventional method for attachment, the base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 snap fits into an aperture (not shown) in the sheet metal of the vehicle 12. By directly attaching the base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 to the sheet metal of the vehicle 12, the garment hook assembly 10 has enough support to hold a substantially greater amount of weight than conventional garment hooks.

[0009] Alternatively, the garment hook assembly 10 may be attached directly to the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20. If the garment hook assembly 10 is attached to the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20, the garment hook assembly 10 may be injection molded simultaneously with the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly or may be manufactured separately and attached as a secondary process. As with a metal base portion 26, a plastic base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 may be secured to the inner panel 14 by snap fitting the plastic base portion 26 into an aperture in the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20.

[0010] In another embodiment of the present invention, the hook portion 24 of the garment hook assembly 10 extends to the sheet metal and directly attaches to the sheet metal of the vehicle 12. The base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 acts as a cover over the hook portion 24, covering the bottom segment of the hook portion 24. The inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20 has an aperture for the hook portion 24 of the garment hook assembly 10 to pass through. The hook portion 24 may also pass through the base portion 26 if the base portion 26 is integral with the

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inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20. If the base portion 26 is separate from the inner panel 14, the base portion 26 is placed over the bottom segment of the hook portion 24 and attached to the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20.

[0011] The base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 is pivotally attached to the vehicle 12. In the illustrated embodiment, the garment hook assembly 10 is pivotally attached within the recess 18 of the inner panel 14 of the vehicle 12. The pivotal attachment allows for the base portion 26 of the garment hook assembly 10 to automatically rotate between a raised position, as shown in phantom in Figure 1, and a lowered position when the liftgate assembly 20 is opened, as shown in Figure 2. When the garment hook assembly 10 is in the raised position, the garment hook assembly 10 rests within the recess 18 of the inner panel 14. The recess 18 has a shape that substantially corresponds to the shape of the garment hook assembly 10. The depth of the recess 18 is such that when the garment hook assembly 10 is raised, the garment hook assembly 10, with or without garments 30, is substantially flush with the inner panel 14 of the liftgate assembly 20. When the garment hook assembly 10 is in the lowered position, the hook portion 26 is accessible for hanging garments 30. Upon closing of the liftgate assembly 20, the garments 30 will be positioned completely within the vehicle 12, as best seen in Figure 3.

[0012] One aspect of the present invention is the automatic movement of the garment hook assembly 10 as the liftgate assembly 20 is opened and closed. The garment hook assembly 10 is pivoted within the recess 18 of the inner panel 14 such that the garment hook assembly 10 will automatically deploy to the lowered position upon opening of the liftgate assembly 20 and return to the raised position upon closing of the liftgate assembly 20. Therefore, the garment hook assembly 10 is visible and easily accessible when the liftgate assembly 20 is opened and will not obstruct the view of the driver when the liftgate assembly 20 is closed. In the illustrated embodiment of the present invention, the garment hook assembly 10 is pivotally attached at the left side of the recess 18. However, it can be appreciated that the garment hook assembly 10 can be positioned anywhere within recess 18 so long as the garment hook assembly 10 will automatically deploy to the lowered position upon

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opening of the liftgate assembly 20 and automatically return to the raised position upon closing of the liftgate assembly 20.

[0013] The garment hook assembly 10 of the present invention has many advantages over conventional garment hooks. For example, the garment hook assembly 10 can hold more garments, or a greater weight of garments, than conventional garment hooks. The hook portion 24 of the garment hook assembly 10 is easily accessible. In addition, a person standing outside the vehicle 12 is able to visually see the garment hook assembly 10. By contrast, conventional garment hooks are hidden to someone standing outside of the vehicle 12. Once the garments are secured by the garment hook assembly 10 and the liftgate assembly 20 is closed, the garments remain flush against the side of the vehicle 12 so the driver's field of view is not compromised.

[0014] In the illustrated embodiment, the garment hook assembly 10 is mounted to the liftgate assembly 20 for automatic deployment. However, it will be appreciated that the garment hook assembly 10 can be mounted to any location within the interior of the vehicle that will allow the automatic deployment of the garment hook assembly 10, such as a door, or the like. It can also be appreciated that the present invention may be practiced in any type of vehicle closure. For instance, the garment hook assembly 10 can be positioned on a front or rear door of the vehicle. Additionally, the size of the garment hook assembly 10 can vary depending on the desired objectives. A large garment hook assembly 10 may be desired if it is anticipated that the garment hook assembly 10 will be utilized for garments 30 that are heavy. In contrast, a small garment hook assembly 10 may be desired if it is anticipated that the garments 30 will be light in weight, or if there is limited space available in the vehicle, thereby limiting the amount of garments 30. Furthermore, the number of garment hook assemblies 10 can vary per vehicle 12. For example, a sedan may have two garment hook assemblies 10; one above the driver's side rear door and one above the passenger's side rear door. A SUV, for example, may have three or more garment hook assemblies 20; two small garment hook assemblies 20 above the rear doors and one or more large garment hook assemblies 20 on the liftgate 10 of the vehicle 12.

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[0015] It should be understood that the aforementioned and other various alternatives to the embodiments of the invention described herein may be employed in practicing the invention. It is intended that the following claims define the scope of the invention and that the method and apparatus within the scope of these claims and their equivalents be covered thereby.

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Claims

What is claimed is:

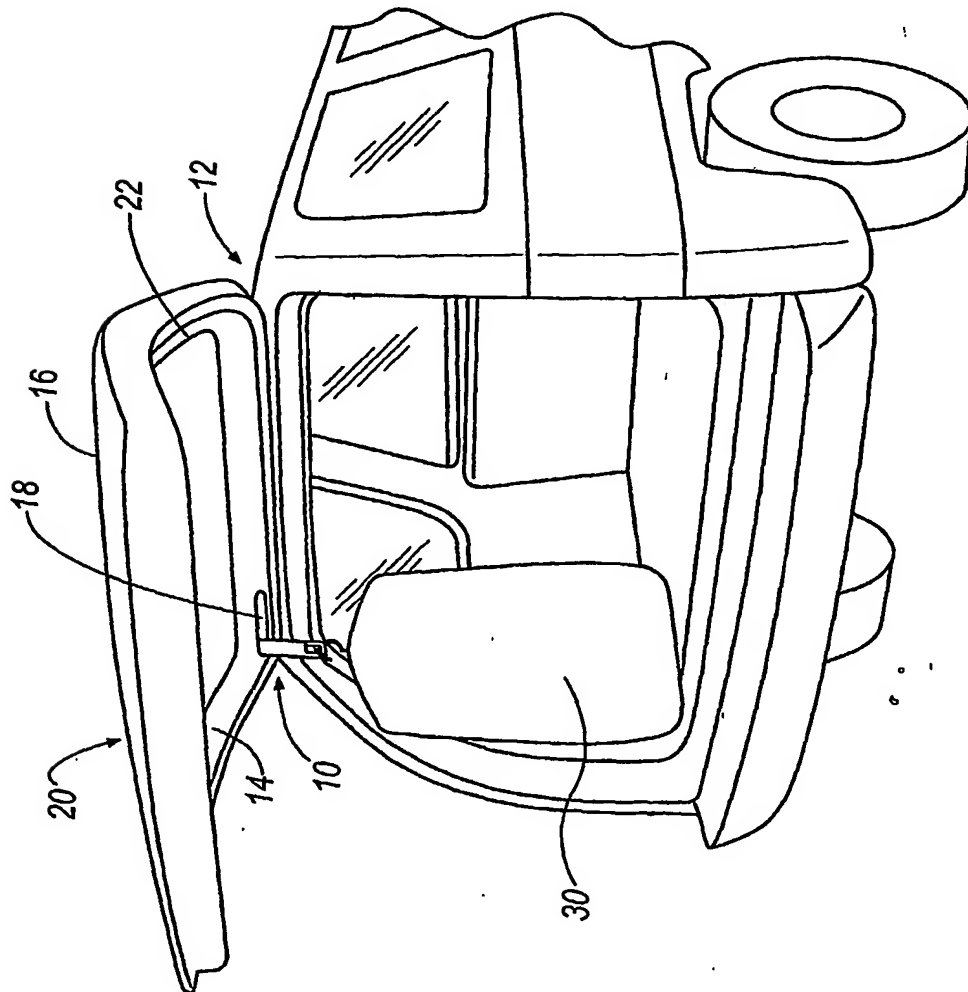
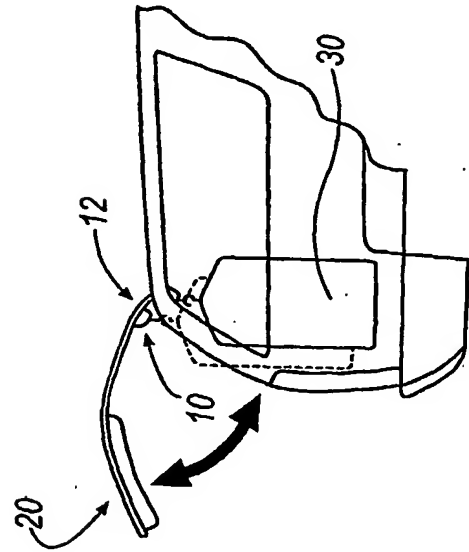
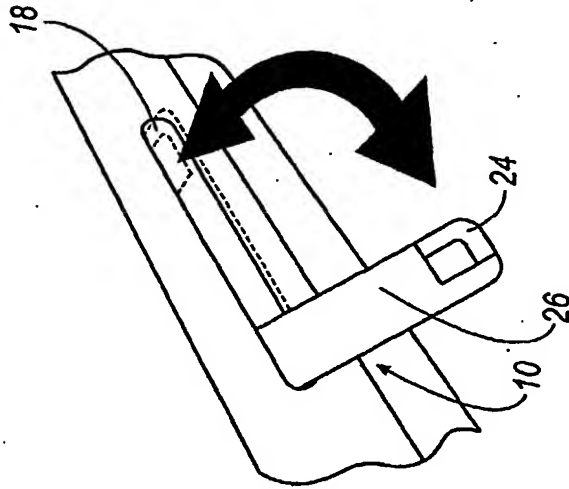
1. A garment hook assembly comprising:
a hook portion; and
a base portion pivotally mounted to an inner panel of a vehicle;
wherein said garment hook assembly is automatically deployed when
the inner panel is moved from a first position to a second position.
2. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said trim
panel is a liftgate of a vehicle.
3. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said hook
portion is capable of holding an object when said garment hook assembly is in
said lowered position.
4. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said hook
portion is made from a metal material.
5. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said hook
portion is made from a plastic material.
6. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said base
portion is made from a metal material.
7. A garment hook assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said base
portion is made from a plastic material.

R0189140.DOC

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR: Steven M. Kowalski
 TITLE: Garment Hook Assembly

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